THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No Sir. The H. B. Ghosh Committee set up by Coal India Limited was asked to submit its report by 31st March, 1990 and it has not yet been received

(b) Does not arise.

Report on environmental situation of Raniganj Coal fields

1465. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from the H.B. Ghosh Committee appointed in 1988 to enquire into the environmental situation of Raniganj Coalfield; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The Department of Coal had set up an Advance Environmental Planning Group for Raniganj Coalfield in March, 1988 which was headed by Shri H. B. Ghosh, former Director General Mines Safety and also Ex-Chairman-cum-Managing Director CMPDI. The terms of reference of the Expert Group were as follows:—

(i) Detailed assessment of the environmental impact of development of coal mines;

(ii) suggest measures for minimising the degradation of land as a result of mining operations and to finalise the plan for afforestation;

(iii) suggest pollution control measures to be taken by the coal companies to ensure that mining activity is carried out in an environmentally compatible manner;

(iv) suggest an organisational set up which would expedite land reclamation and afforestation.

The Group has submitted its report which is more in the nature of an assessment in the coalfield area in general to serve as guidelines of environmental protection measures for projects to be taken up in future.

The report also deals with the problem of land subsidence in areas worked out in the past, air and water pollution in the area and protection measures which can be taken to ensure that mining activities are carried out in an environmentally compatible manner.

Reconstitution of the Coir Board

1466. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Kerala has represented to Union Government for the reconstitution of the Coir Board since its representation in the Board was nominal; and

(b) if so, whether Union Government propose to take urgent steps for the reconstitution of the Board and give adequate representation to all interests including the workers?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Request for reconstitution of the Coir Board has been received from the Govt. of Kerala. The Coir Board was reconstituted in September, 1988, for a period of 3 years, as per the provisions of Coir Industry Act, 1953 and Coir Industry Rules, 1954. Representation on the Board is given in accordance with the categories specified in the said Act and Rules. There is no proposal, at present, to reconstitute the Coir Board.

Hydel Power Project Schemes of Kerala

1467. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY: be pleased to state:

(a) how many hydel power project schemes of Kerala are pending for Central clearance; and

(b) whether Government propose to clear these projects expeditiously in view of Kerala's power situation?